

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 25 and 29. Claims 1-31 are pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-19 and 21-31 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by either Goldenberg (US Patent No. 5352198) or Chu (US Patent No. 6042577). The Examiner also rejected remaining claims 6, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Goldenberg. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 will be explained, by way of example only, with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4 of the present application. In a conventional drainage catheter, the proximal end usually includes a connector such as a Luer connector 231 for connection to an external device such as a syringe, drainage bag tubing or other external fluid delivery device. For attaching and detaching such external medical devices from the drainage catheter, a medical professional rotates the external device relative to the Luer connector.

One of the problems with some prior art catheters is that they are susceptible to loosening when being disconnected from the external device such as a syringe or drainage bag tubing because the rotational motion on the catheter hub causes the latching mechanism to become deactivated (see paragraph 110 of the present application; paragraph 109 in the published application). In other words, those prior art catheters have a locking mechanism that unlocks the pigtail anchor by a rotational movement which is the same rotational movement that is used to detach the external devices from the catheter.

The present invention solves this problem of unintentional unlocking of the catheter by a latching hub that locks and unlocks using a *longitudinal sliding movement*, rather than a rotational movement. For example, first and second members 210, 230 of the hub lock the suture when one member longitudinally slides toward the other member. Thus, when detaching a syringe from the drainage catheter which requires a rotational movement, a medical professional does not accidentally unlock the catheter which requires a longitudinal sliding movement.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to make this feature clearer by reciting “the latch latches the first and second members together when the second member ~~slidably moves~~ longitudinally slides relative to the first member so as to secure the cord to the hub”.

The Examiner cited Goldenberg and Chu as disclosing such a catheter. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In Goldenberg, the members 50 and 42 are not slidably coupled to each other and they do not longitudinally slide relative to each other. Rather, member 50 rolls over member 42. That is not a sliding movement.

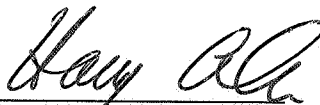
In Chu, the Examiner referred to FIG. 2 as disclosing the catheter as claimed in claim 1. Since the Examiner did not specifically point out any element as being equivalent to the claimed elements, Applicant assumes that elements 32 and 33 correspond to first and second members of a hub as claimed in claim 1.

Col 5, lines 35-39 of Chu states that rotational movement of element 33 relative to element 32 locks the suture. As explained above, this is the exact prior art device discussed in the present specification as having the problem of unlocking while a syringe is being detached by a rotational movement. In the Chu device, locking of the suture is accomplished by a rotational movement of element 33 relative to element 32. That is not a longitudinal sliding of one member to another. Even if a rotation of element 32 can be considered a sliding movement, at best it is a circumferential sliding that rotates about an axis, rather than a longitudinal sliding as claimed in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of rejection for claim 1.

For the similar reasons as discussed above, Applicant submits that independent claims 16, 25 and 29 are also patentable. Dependent claims 2-15, 17-24, 26-28 and 30-31 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from their respective independent claims.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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